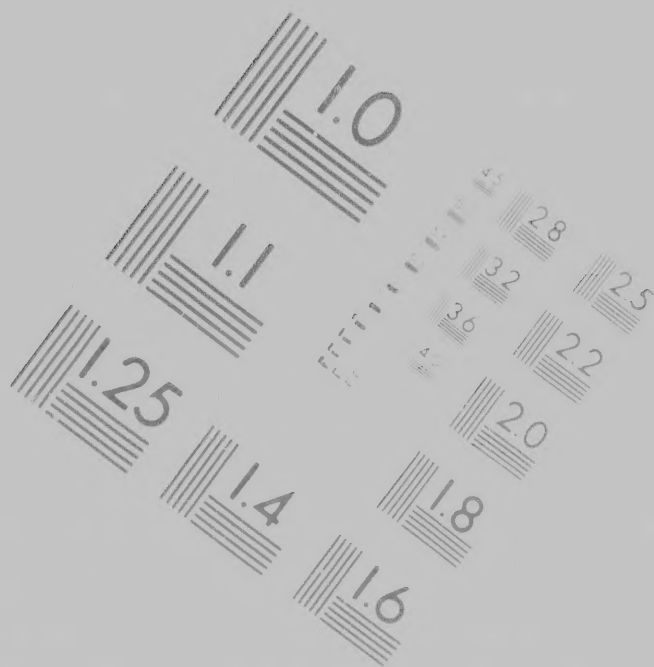


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With Historical Introduction

BY B. A. JESSUP.

ent English jurist, Sir William whose Commentaries are almost n throughout the world of civiliza- espeare or the Bible, states in his and instructive work on the Laws of at " where the magistrate upon sion is elected by the people and express provision of the laws be not punished) by his subjects, may be perfection of liberty, and look when delineated on paper, but in be productive of tumult, contention." But Washington, Franklin and at patriots of the revolution think- established this system of the chief magistrate by the people. result has been all civilized nations t was perfecting this system of true brought on the revolution and 1812. After a general treaty had at Paris, January 20, 1782, settling es of the war of '76, England con- sist on her absurd claim, "the right This country submitted to this g as a patient and conscientious, until not being successful in se- lighteous acknowledgement of her e English Ministry, the declaration issued by President Madison in an act of Congress passed June the great war was ushered in. and thought of us at this time is ed by Lord Sidmouth when he erica is a bugbear, there is no threats." So England looked with mpt upon a nation which possessed r nor fleet.

ces the war of 1812 more interest- respects than the revolution as nance of naval contests, prominent ch were the celebrated battles of plain, fought September 11, 1814, e Erie, fought September 10, 1813. ests proved that we possessed f an army and navy which England much to her disadvantage. When ight this country she was not fight- gner but her own flesh and blood, k meeting Greek. The son in the o strong for the unnatural parent. America has enjoyed to the fullest appiness derived from the spirit of a spirit emanating from the people. Blackstone was an able jurist but n in the case of the people lacked In speaking of the battle of Lake many of our art connoisseurs will e finely executed painting by Mr. this exceedingly interesting enga- d the very favorable criticism it has a work of art, from the press. This vigorously handled, showing a re- chnical knowledge for marine sub- owned by the Hon. S. M. Weed, of N. Y., the place where the battle he subject for the present sketch oduction in oil by Mr. Davidson r the well known battle of Lake

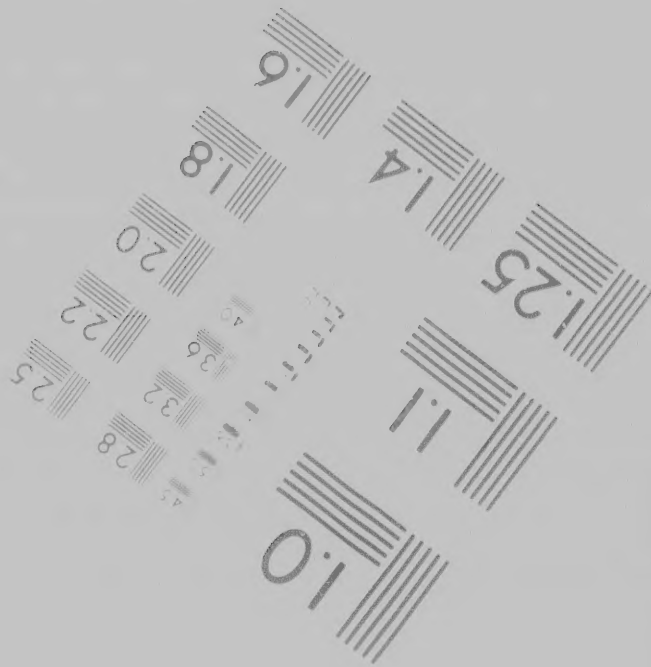
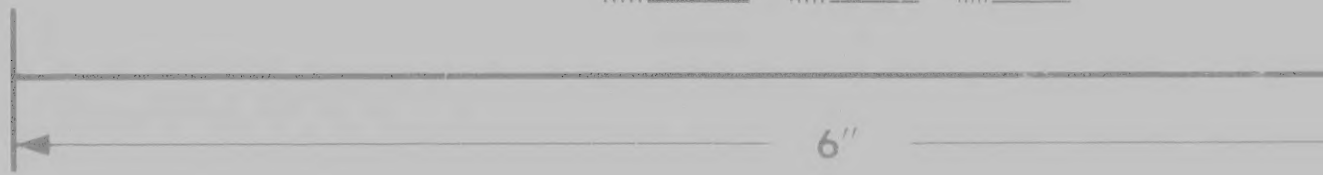
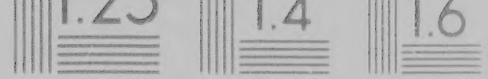
Robert H. Barclay, a veteran who had fought under Nelson, ably assisted by experienced officers. In the point of long guns Perry had only fifteen while Barclay had thirty-five, there- by giving the advantage to the British at long range. This Perry thoroughly understood and had in a previous consultation with his officers given the word "the enemy must be laid close aboard." This meant business and every man understood its meaning. It was this spirit of courageous and determined resistance to op- pression indigenous to the Saxon race that freed this country from the English yoke. It first revealed itself on the banks of the Runny- mede, on the 15th day of July, 1215, when King John's hands was forced by his barons and the *Magna charta* was given which guaranteed rights and privileges justly claimed. Shortly after ten o'clock Perry formed his line of battle, the Niagara in the van. Meanwhile the Lawrence had been thoroughly cleared for action, care having been taken to sprinkle sand profusely over her decks to save the men from slipping in the blood. A large blue flag on which in white letters were displayed the words of the brave Captain Lawrence, "Don't give up the ship," was run up to the main royal masthead. It was Perry's signal for battle. As the Americans moved towards the enemy it was found necessary to make a change in their former arrangement. This was instantly ac- complished. Barclay had placed his force near together, the flag-ship Detroit in the van, sup- ported by the Chippewa, next the Hunter, Queen Charlotte, Lady Prevost, and Little Belt. The American line of battle was as follows. First the Scorpion, then Ariel, Lawrence, Caledonia, Niagara, Somers, Porcupine, Tigress and Trippe.

The wind still blew from the southeast adding the bowsprits of the enemy pointed almost southwest, while the American fleet pointed almost west. Shortly before 12 o'clock a bugle sound was heard on board the Detroit, immediately followed by "Rule Britannia," a selection of music bordering somewhat on the order of a travesty in this case but sufficiently patriotic to fire the British heart. It meant the signal for action. A shout of apprecia- tion went up, then a puff of smoke was seen to leap from a port on the British flag-ship a mile and a half distant immediately followed by a sharp report and a solid shot splashed high the water near the Lawrence. A second shot fol- lowed close upon the first striking the bulworks of the Lawrence and sending the splinters flying in every direction. The long guns of the enemy had commenced in earnest their terrible anthem of destruction. It was evident the Englishman desired to avail himself of his long guns, while Perry had resolved to fight at close range. Slowly the American fleet with light wind abeam moved towards the foe, forming an angle of about fifteen degrees. Signals were then given to open fire and the great battle of Lake Erie commenced in earnest. At this point the position of Perry's line of battle had changed somewhat, the Lawrence and Caledonia

The course of the Niagara was altered and an advance made for the enemy's line which was at half mile distant. During this time the Law- rence was compelled to strike her flag as humanity required it. Her killed and wounded numbered 101, leaving only 18 uninjured. All her guns were rendered ineffective, and her decks presented a most terrible reality of "man's inhumanity to man." When Perry reached the British line, closely followed by the Caledonia he made short work of it, breaking through and passing at short distance between the Lady Prevost and Chippewa on his port, and the Detroit, Queen Charlotte and Hunter on his starboard, he sent in broadside after broadside; then ranging ahead of the vessels on his starboard, he rounded to and fairly gridironed the Detroit with his great guns. The Detroit had previously attempted to manœuvre so as to bring a fresh broadside into action. This was a failure, as in turning she fouled the Queen Charlotte, which was closely astern, the bowsprit and jibboom of the latter catching in the starboard rigging of the Detroit. The wind not having changed, almost forced the two vessels side to side. Before they could be disentangled, Perry and the Caledonia were upon them. The Ariel also having broken the British line, her iron throated dogs swelled the din of battle and sent their missiles of des- truction through the doomed and embarrassed ships.

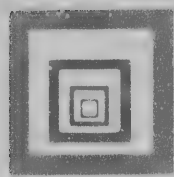
The scene that took place beggars descrip- tion. The Niagara and Caledonia seemed a mass of flame and smoke. It appeared as if the Inferno had left its abode and sat upon the face of the deep. The roar of cannon and crash of musketry, the sharp splitting rip of the wood-work as it was torn into splinters by the shot, killing and wounding on every side. The whirl and whiz of cannon shot and musket ball, the terrible thud of the iron messengers of death as they crushed through and through the sides of the ill-fated vessels, the flash of flame as it leaped from the muzzle of the guns, the shroud of battle smoke, the shouts of the living, the shrieks and groans of the wounded and dying, the silence of the dead; told only too painfully the terrible realities of war. But this carnival of death was of short duration. The Americans had worked their guns at close pistol range with such terrible precision and effect, that at the end of eight minutes the British colors came down with a run in token of surrender. The Little Belt and Chip- pewa tried to escape at the close of the battle, but were recaptured and brought back. This severe engagement lasted about three hours, and its result was of the im- most importance to the government. "We have met the enemy and they are ours," wrote the young hero (Perry at this time was only 27 years of age) to Gen. Harrison when victory was within his grasp.

An important feature of this engagement, was the prominent part taken by the Kentucky riflemen stationed in the tops of the Niagara.



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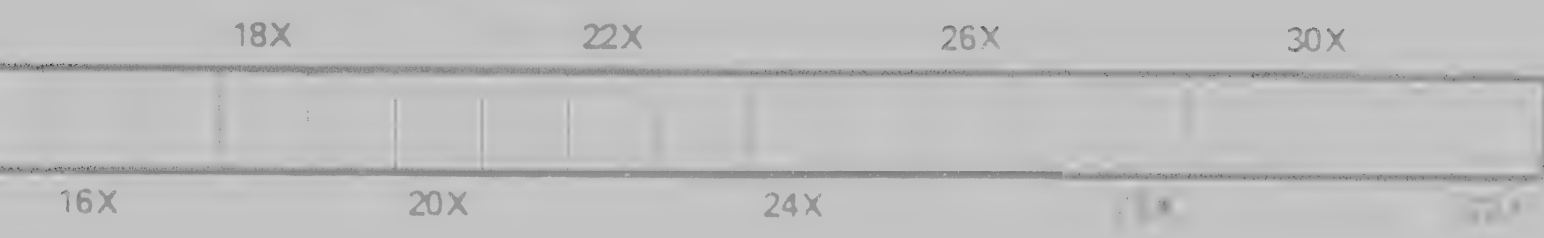
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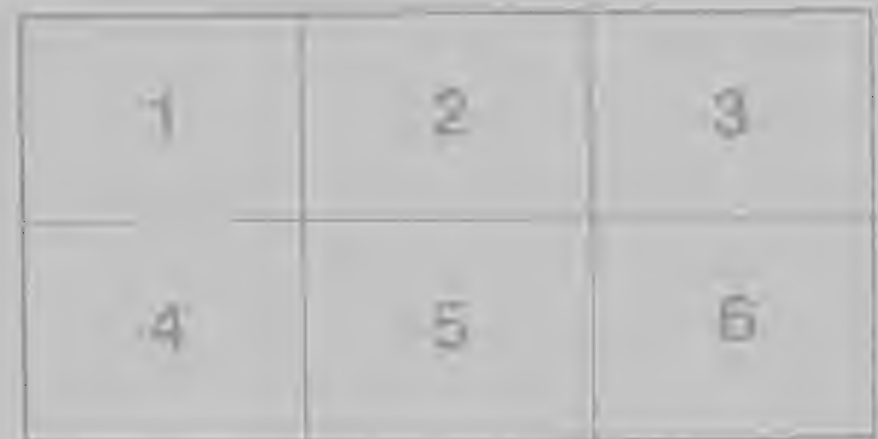
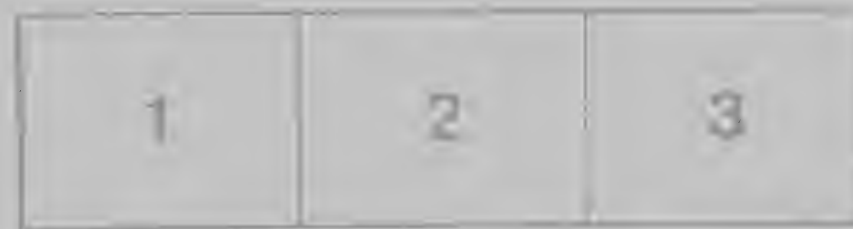
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